United Nations E/2004/L.14

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
1 July 2004

Original: English

Substantive session of 2004
New York, 28 June-23 July 2004
Agenda item 4 (a)
Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes: review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Yashar Aliyev (Azerbaijan), on the basis of informal consultations

Review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and its decision 2003/287 to undertake, during its coordination segment in 2004, a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the agreed conclusions,

Recalling also its resolution 2001/41, in which the Council decided to establish a regular sub-item entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system", as well as its resolutions 2002/23 and 2003/49,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a major strategy for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3] as a complement to strategies for women's empowerment,

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

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Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the important role played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* its agreed conclusions 1997/2[1] as a valid framework for promoting and monitoring the implementation of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

2. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the Economic and Social Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;[4]

3. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made by the United Nations in mainstreaming gender perspectives into policies and programmes since 1997, including the ongoing activities of and efforts made by the entities of the United Nations system, both individually and through inter-agency cooperation;

4. *Recognizes* that mainstreaming a gender perspective in all aspects of the work of the United Nations is an ongoing process and that further concrete steps are required, as a matter of urgency, to ensure full implementation of the agreed conclusions 1997/2;

5. *Recommends* that the General Assembly encourage its committees and other intergovernmental bodies to take further measures to integrate systematically gender perspectives into all areas of their work, including the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, and in particular the 2005 high-level event planned in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004;

6. *Reaffirms* its commitment to ensuring systematic attention to gender perspectives in all aspects of its work;

7. *Encourages* the governing bodies of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of their monitoring functions in relation to policies and strategies, medium-term plans, multi-year funding frameworks, and operational activities, including those relating to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

8. *Calls upon* its functional commissions to take further measures to incorporate recommendations on their areas of work provided by the Commission on the Status of Women and fully to integrate gender perspectives into their work, including through their annual or multi-year work programmes, and in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, and, to that end, requests its Bureau to further strengthen the regular dialogue with the bureaux of the functional commissions on the issue of gender mainstreaming;

9. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system to enhance the effectiveness of gender specialist resources, gender focal points and gender theme groups, by establishing clear mandates; by ensuring adequate training, access to

[4] E/2004/59.

information and to adequate and stable resources; and by increasing the support and participation of senior staff;

10. *Encourages* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue its catalytic role in relation to United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies and to provide further practical guidance on gender mainstreaming;

11. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system, including funds and programmes, fully to incorporate gender perspectives into their programmes and operational activities and to ensure, within their mandates, systematic integration of reporting on their efforts in mainstreaming gender into existing evaluation and monitoring processes within the United Nations system, including those relating to the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration;

12. *Recommends* that all entities of the United Nations system continue to promote cooperation, coordination, sharing of methodologies and good practices, including through the development of tools and effective processes for monitoring and evaluation within the United Nations, in the implementation of agreed conclusions 1997/2, in particular through the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and recommends further that all inter-agency mechanisms pay attention to gender perspectives in their work;

13. *Takes note* of work already undertaken to implement General Assembly resolution 58/144, of 22 December 2003 and urges continued efforts towards its full implementation;

14. *Also takes note* of work already undertaken to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and urges continued efforts towards its full implementation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations entities develop action plans with time lines for implementing the agreed conclusions 1997/2, which address the gap between policy and practice identified in the Secretary-General's report, with a view to strengthening commitment and accountability at the highest levels within the United Nations system as well as to establishing mechanisms to ensure accountability, systematic monitoring and reporting on progress in implementation;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the implementation of the agreed conclusions 1997/2 within the framework of his annual reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation by United Nations entities and intergovernmental bodies of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with a particular focus on bridging the gap between policies and practice on the basis of gender mainstreaming action plans;

17. *Decides* to undertake a further review and appraisal of the implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 at a future session before 2010.